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TIMBER RESOURCES OF THE LOWER SOUTH, 1946

By

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
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Dear Sir:

In your copies of Forest Survey Release No. 54 (February 1946): "Basic Data on Forest Area and Timber Volumes from the Southern Forest Survey, 1932-36," and Forest Survey Release No. 55 (May 20, 1946): "Timber Resources of the Lower South,1946," please correct the following error, which has just been discovered:

On the map between pages 3 and 4 (both releases) the Georgia unit labeled 1 should be 2. That labeled 2 should be 1.

Very truly yours,

William A. Duerr

WILLIAM A. DUERR, Chief
Division of Forest Economics

TIMBER RESOURCES OF THE LOWER SOUTH, 1946

A reconnaissance of timber resources in eight southern states recently completed by the Southern Forest Experiment Station puts the volume of saw timber as of January 1, 1946, in areas previously covered by the Forest Survey, at approximately 220 billion board feet—a decrease of 14 percent in board-foot volume since the initial Survey was made about a decade ago. Total growing stock, including small trees and pine tops as well as sawlog material, stands at about 78 billion cubic feet—a decrease of less than 1 percent in cubic-foot volume in the decade.

Made as part of the U. S. Forest Service national reappraisal of the forest situation, the timber reconnaissance took the form of actual timber cruises of seven Forest Survey units scattered over the region,1/ and of spot checks and ocular and office estimates in each of the remaining 25 units. For the units cruised (Texas #1, Arkansas #3, Louisiana #1, Mississippi #3, Georgia #1 and #2, and Florida #1), the volume estimates are of a reliability comparable to that of the initial Forest Survey. Estimates for the remaining units are less reliable, though they are believed to be sufficiently accurate to indicate any pronounced trends. The whole series of estimates provides a check of the highlights of the forest situation pending a much-needed resumption of the Forest Survey itself to fill out the details of the local record and carry it forward from year to year.

Sawlog growing stock as a whole declined in each of the eight states (table 1). All but five of the individual Survey units showed a declining trend. In these five units, all within the longleaf-slash-pine belt, total sawlog volume increased by 13 to 25 percent. For the region as a whole, the percentage decline in pine and hardwood sawlog volume was about equal.

1/ Help in making these cruises was given to the Forest Service by the American Forestry Association and by State forestry agencies in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida. This help is gratefully acknowledged.

Table 1.— Estimated sawlog growing stock by state and unit in the lower South, 1946, and change since initial Survey

State	Forest Survey Unit [1]	Sawlog growing stock [2] Pine [3] In 1946	Pine [3] Change since initial Survey	Hardwood [4] In 1946	Hardwood [4] Change since initial Survey	All Species In 1946 Total	All Species In 1946 Per acre	All Species Change since initial Survey	Date of initial Survey
		Million bd. ft.	Percent	Million bd. ft.	Percent	Million bd. ft.	Board feet	Percent	Year
Alabama	1	4,491	+34	1,224	+ 1	5,715	1,913	+25	1935
	2	4,388	- 8	2,287	-19	6,675	2,433	-12	1935
	3	4,948	-16	4,577	+21	9,525	2,213	- 2	1935
	4	2,116	-31	1,608	-17	3,724	1,373	-25	1935
	5	3,333	-50	1,627	- 2	4,960	1,228	-40	1936
	6	1,196	-23	1,566	-11	2,762	1,321	-17	1936
	All units	20,472	-19	12,889	- 3	33,361	1,767	-13	
Arkansas	1	128	+71	4,931	-20	5,059	1,851	-19	1935
	2	-	-	2,853	-31	2,853	1,867	-31	1935
	3	10,586	-10	5,828	-23	16,414	2,688	-15	1936
	4	5,678	- 1	784	-33	6,462	1,913	- 7	1936
	All units	16,392	- 7	14,396	-24	30,788	2,240	-16	
Florida	1	5,282	-19	2,799	-40	8,081	1,095	-28	1934
	2	2,911	-27	2,722	- 6	5,633	933	-18	1935
	3	2,194	-15	384	-69	2,578	408	-33	1936
	4	363	-61	653	+ 3	1,016	437	-35	1936
	All units	10,750	-23	6,558	-30	17,308	785	-26	
Georgia	1	10,431	+22	4,740	- 2	15,171	2,150	+13	1934
	2	4,331	+ 8	1,564	+43	5,895	1,952	+15	1934
	3	6,356	-42	3,227	-29	9,583	1,717	-38	1936
	4	3,907	-19	1,254	- 7	5,161	2,023	-16	1936
	5	3,346	-13	1,387	-19	4,733	1,670	-15	1936
	All units	28,371	-12	12,172	-10	40,543	1,927	-11	
Louisiana	1	-	-	[5] 6,014	-32	6,014	2,438	-32	1934
	2	1,400	+40	6,951	- 7	8,351	2,236	- 2	1935
	3	4,097	-20	4,783	+ 8	8,880	1,954	- 7	1935
	4	2,914	+26	1,655	+ 3	4,569	2,813	+17	1935
	5	4,972	-29	4,109	-12	9,081	2,364	-22	1935
	All units	13,383	-14	23,512	-13	36,895	2,276	-13	

Table 1.— Estimated sawlog growing stock by state and unit in the lower South, 1946, and change since initial Survey (Cont'd)

State	Forest Survey Unit [1]	Sawlog growing stock [2]							Date of initial Survey
		Pine [3]		Hardwood [4]		All Species			
		In 1946	Change since initial Survey	In 1946	Change since initial Survey	In 1946		Change since initial Survey	
						Total	Per acre		
		Million bd. ft.	Percent	Million bd. ft.	Percent	Million bd. ft.	Board feet	Percent	Year
Mississippi	1	-	-	4,500	-14	4,500	2,580	-14	1932
	2	892	-64	3,883	+ 7	4,775	1,544	-22	1933
	3	6,636	-32	6,921	- 2	13,557	2,248	-20	1935
	4	3,912	+ 2	2,434	- 6	6,346	1,324	- 1	1935
	5	-	-	1,275	- 3	1,275	5,894	- 3	1934
	All units	11,440	-29	19,013	- 4	30,453	1,918	-15	
Oklahoma	1	1,952	-22	760	-31	2,712	916	-25	1936
	All units	1,952	-22	760	-31	2,712	916	-25	1936
Texas	1	16,313	+31	5,799	-17	22,112	3,339	+14	1935
	2	2,870	-50	2,506	-19	5,376	1,362	-39	1935
	All units	19,183	+ 6	8,305	-18	27,488	2,601	- 3	
All states	All units	121,943	-14	97,605	-14	219,548	1,793	-14	

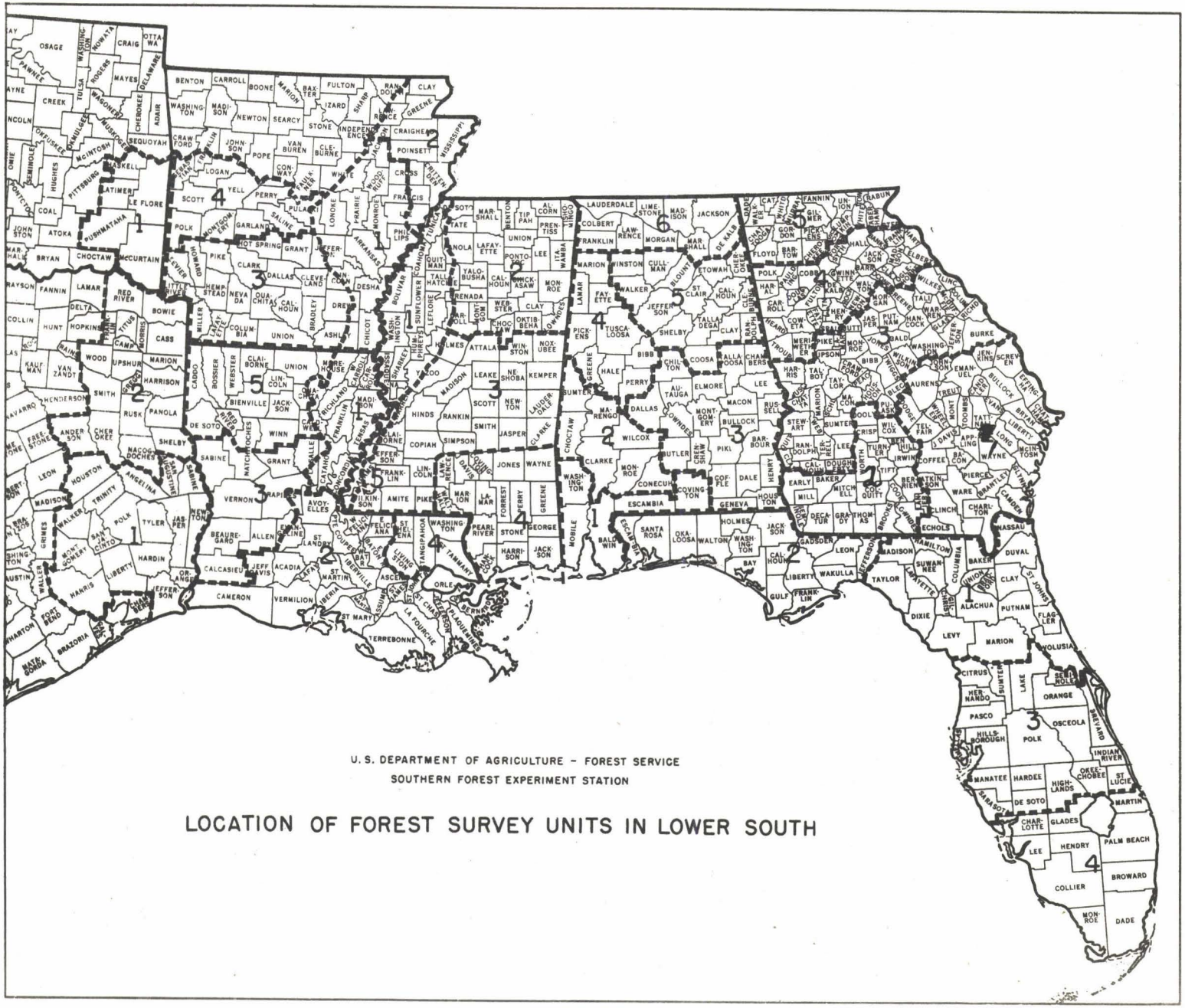
1/ See map.

2/ Cull-free volume, by International 1/4-inch rule, of merchantable sawlogs in softwood trees 9.0 inches and larger in diameter breast high, in hardwoods 13.0 inches and larger, and in cypress 9.0 inches and larger—except in the Mississippi River Delta units, where the lower limit for cypress is 13.0 inches.

3/ Includes negligible amount of other softwoods.

4/ Includes cypress. Excluding cypress, hardwood growing stock in "all units" is as follows: Alabama, 12,680; Arkansas, 14,396; Florida, 4,446; Georgia, 11,602; Louisiana, 22,965; Mississippi, 18,861; Oklahoma, 760; Texas, 8,305; All states, 94,015.

5/ Includes negligible amount of pine.


U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHERN FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION
LOCATION OF FOREST SURVEY UNITS IN LOWER SOUTH

Total growing stock decreased during the decade in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Georgia, and Florida; but showed a gain in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama (table 2). Of the 32 surveyed units, 1 was unchanged, 17 declined, and 14 increased in total growing stock. Most of the gains were made in the longleaf-slash and other southerly units outside of Florida. In the entire region, the total growing stock of pines fell by 4 percent, while hardwood growing stock rose 5 percent.

Some of the highlights of the timber-volume changes in the lower South appear to be these: A rather general decline of volume, particularly in the State of Florida and in the shortleaf pine-hardwood areas in the northern part of the region; a fairly consistent decline of volume in trees of sawlog size and in pine trees of all merchantable sizes; a notable rise in volume of under-sawlog-size hardwoods.

Table 2.— Estimated total growing stock by state and unit in the lower South, 1946, and change since initial Survey

State	Forest Survey Unit[1]	Total growing stock[2]							Date of initial Survey
		Pine[3]		Hardwood[4]		All Species			
		In 1946	Change since initial Survey	In 1946	Change since initial Survey	In 1946		Change since initial Survey	
						Total	Per acre		
		Million cu. ft.	Percent	Million cu. ft.	Percent	Million cu. ft.	Cubic feet	Percent	Year
Alabama	1	1,272	+35	617	+34	1,889	632	+33	1935
	2	1,336	+13	900	+ 6	2,236	815	+10	1935
	3	1,434	- 8	1,591	+22	3,025	703	+ 6	1935
	4	890	- 3	836	+17	1,726	636	+ 6	1935
	5	1,485	-18	924	+11	2,409	596	- 9	1936
	6	404	-20	834	+ 3	1,238	592	- 6	1936
	All units	6,821	- 2	5,702	+15	12,523	663	+ 5	
Arkansas	1	32	+52	1,810	- 4	1,842	674	- 4	1935
	2	-	-	1,271	- 7	1,271	833	- 7	1935
	3	3,200	- 3	2,682	- 1	5,882	963	- 2	1936
	4	1,853	+11	537	-11	2,390	707	+ 5	1936
	All units	5,085	+ 2	6,300	- 4	11,385	829	- 2	
Florida	1	1,830	-15	1,345	-11	3,175	430	-14	1934
	2	883	-28	1,105	+10	1,988	329	-11	1935
	3	716	- 7	440	-18	1,156	183	-12	1936
	4	177	-35	234	+ 4	411	177	-17	1936
	All units	3,606	-19	3,124	- 5	6,730	305	-13	
Georgia	1	3,078	+ 9	2,088	+15	5,166	732	+11	1934
	2	1,239	0	792	+95	2,031	672	+24	1934
	3	2,118	-25	1,609	- 3	3,727	668	-17	1936
	4	972	-25	503	-11	1,475	578	-21	1936
	5	1,066	- 1	765	0	1,831	646	0	1936
	All units	8,473	- 9	5,757	+10	14,230	676	- 2	
Louisiana	1	-	-	[5] 1,670	-20	1,670	677	-20	1934
	2	376	+60	2,733	+15	3,109	832	+19	1935
	3	1,203	- 9	1,557	+21	2,760	607	+ 6	1935
	4	832	+45	610	+27	1,442	888	+37	1935
	5	1,317	-30	1,618	+ 5	2,935	764	-15	1935
	All units	3,728	- 7	8,188	+ 5	11,916	735	+ 1	

Table 2.— Estimated total growing stock by state and unit in the lower South, 1946, and change since initial Survey (Cont'd)

State	Forest Survey Unit 1/	Total growing stock 2/							Date of initial Survey
		Pine 3/		Hardwood 4/		All Species			
		In 1946	Change since initial Survey	In 1946	Change since initial Survey	In 1946		Change since initial Survey	
						Total	Per acre		
		Million cu. ft.	Percent	Million cu. ft.	Percent	Million cu. ft.	Cubic feet	Percent	Year
Mississippi	1	-	-	1,037	-17	1,037	595	-17	1932
	2	429	-47	1,426	+ 5	1,855	600	-15	1933
	3	1,966	-19	2,749	+26	4,715	782	+ 2	1935
	4	1,210	+14	1,373	+38	2,583	539	+25	1935
	5	-	-	317	+16	317	1,466	+16	1934
	All units	3,605	-16	6,902	+14	10,507	662	+ 1	
Oklahoma	1	585	- 7	460	-19	1,045	353	-13	1936
	All units	585	- 7	460	-19	1,045	353	-13	1936
Texas	1	4,657	+37	2,305	+ 3	6,962	1,051	+24	1935
	2	1,412	-19	1,185	- 1	2,597	658	-12	1935
	All units	6,069	+18	3,490	+ 2	9,559	904	+12	
All states	All units	37,972	- 4	39,923	+ 5	77,895	636	Negl.	

1/ See map.

2/ Cull-free cubic volume, inside bark, of all sawlog growing stock (see table 1, footnote 2); all thrifty, well-formed trees of less than sawlog size but at least 5.0 inches in diameter breast high; and the upper stems of sawlog-size softwoods, above merchantable sawlogs; but excluding hardwood tops. Including hardwood tops, total growing stock of all species in "all units" is as follows, in million cubic feet: Alabama, 13,620; Arkansas, 12,625; Florida, 7,239; Georgia, 15,237; Louisiana, 13,933; Mississippi, 12,131; Oklahoma, 1,110; Texas, 10,266; All states, 86,161.

3/ Includes negligible amount of other softwoods.

4/ Includes cypress.

5/ Includes negligible amount of pine.